

HOUSE RESOLUTION 61
By Patton

A RESOLUTION To honor and recognize Dr. Bonnie S. Marrs on the occasion of her retirement from East Tennessee State University.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those outstanding Tennesseans who in their years of work have performed with the utmost devotion and ability; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonnie S. Marrs is most assuredly one such extraordinary educator and health professional who is richly deserving of the commendation of this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrs is retiring after sixteen years of meritorious service with East Tennessee State University; her knowledge, leadership, and enthusiasm have made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of students during her illustrious tenure; and

WHEREAS, A sterling scholar, Dr. Marrs graduated from East Tennessee University with an Associate's Degree in Dental Hygiene in 1971, a Bachelor of Science in Health Education in 1974, and a Master of Arts in Supervision and Administration in 1975; she received

training in Health Administration for Dental Auxiliary from the University of North Carolina and a Ph.D. in Public Health Education from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonnie Marrs is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Delta Phi, and the National Honor Society; she was listed in *Who's Who in American Colleges* for 1975 and 1983; and

WHEREAS, A Dental Hygienist certified and licensed by the State of Tennessee, she began her health career as a Dental Hygienist for Drs. Don Hyatt and Jack Denton in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonnie S. Marrs, from 1973-86, served with the greatest integrity and acumen as a Public Health Dental Hygienist II for the Tennessee Department of Public Health Division of Dental Services; in 1981, she was honored at the Tennessee Dental Association Meeting, where she received the First Place Award for Table Clinics; and

WHEREAS, An astute leader, Dr. Marrs ably served the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment Division of Health Care Facilities as a Health Facilities Surveyor Team Leader, from July of 1987 to July of 1990; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrs began her remarkable career with East Tennessee State University, in 1985, as a Part-time Instructor with the Department of Health Education; in 1990, she became an Assistant Professor at ETSU and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1996; and

WHEREAS, During her illustrious tenure with East Tennessee State University, Dr. Bonnie Marrs has served on countless university committees, dedicating her time and considerable talents in support of her students, her peers, and the university which she has so ably served; and

WHEREAS, An active and committed professional, she has participated in numerous presentations, including speaking at the Tennessee Department of Public Health Annual Conference, the Older Tennessean Health Initiative, the Annual Southern Gerontological

Society, the National Conference on Aging, the Tennessee Academy of Science, and the Lincoln Memorial University State Educational Conference; and

WHEREAS, A talented writer, Dr. Bonnie S. Marrs has been published in the *Journal of Tennessee Dental Association* and in seven issues of the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*; she has also authored two superb texts, the *Quality of Life in Long-Term Care* and *Alzheimer's Disease: Activity-Focused Care*; and

WHEREAS, A much sought after speaker, Dr. Marrs has made presentations at several health workshops, eloquently speaking on health topics ranging from aging to stress management; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrs has served as a grant investigator for the Appalachian Regional Commission Grant, Comprehensive School Health Education Program, and The Tennessee Opportunity Program; she is the two-time recipient of the Presidential Grant-in-Aid; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonnie Marrs's unremitting dedication to her students and her consummate professionalism have earned her the Dental Education Award and the Educational Training Award; she was elected to the Tennessee Health Care Education Foundation in 1994 and served astutely as a member of the Tennessee Board of Examiners of Dieticians and Nutritionists from 1993-96; and

WHEREAS, She is affiliated with numerous professional organizations and has served on many professional committees and held various offices, working arduously to promote and improve both education and health care; and

WHEREAS, For her considerable efforts to improve the lives of nursing home patients, Dr. Bonnie S. Marrs was presented the Better Life Award by the Tennessee Health Care Association in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrs has also served on the Board of Directors of the Junior Babe Ruth Baseball League, has conducted dental health programs for the members of the Boys Club of Johnson City, has participated in PTA Dental Health Programs, has assisted the Washington

County Chapter of the American Heart Association in organizing educational programs, and has acted as a consultant to the Residential Homes for Aged Association; in these and countless other capacities, she has steadfastly contributed to the betterment of her community; and

WHEREAS, An avid traveler, Dr. Bonnie Marrs has visited many countries, including Mexico, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Russia, Scotland, and China; and

WHEREAS, Professionals of Dr. Bonnie S. Marrs's eminent stature do not often walk among us; her many innovative ideas and programs for the classroom and beyond, her stalwart dedication to the precepts of quality education and the health and welfare of all Tennesseans, and the sheer delight she takes in the personal relationships she has with her students and her peers, all combine to make her an extraordinary educator, public servant, and human being; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marrs has served the administration, faculty and the students of East Tennessee State University with distinction; her wisdom and insight will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her estimable career, Dr. Bonnie Marrs has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her students, and colleagues alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and recognize Dr. Bonnie S. Marrs on the occasion of her retirement from East Tennessee State University, salute her excellent career as an educator, applaud her commitment to improved health care and health education for all Tennesseans and commend her years of diligent service to the citizens of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish Dr. Marrs much continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.